

HUMAN FACTORS AND ERGONOMICS SOCIETY CODE OF ETHICS

Adopted October 14, 1989; Amended 2005
(<http://www.hfes.org/web/AboutHFES/ethics.html>)

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Subject Precautions

Human factors scientists and engineers have the responsibility of treating both human and animal subjects humanely and in accordance with federal, state, and local laws or regulations, as well as the generally accepted procedures within the scientific community.

Principle 1

Members determine, through consultation with colleagues or institutional review committees, that the exposure of human or animal research subjects to hazards, stress, divulgence of history or preferences, or tedium is commensurate with the significance of the problem being researched.

Principle 2

Members determine the degree of hazard present in the exposure of human or animal research subjects, avoiding any exposures to human subjects that may result in death, dismemberment, permanent dysfunction or extreme pain, and utilize the lowest levels of exposure to both human and animal subjects consistent with the phenomenon under consideration.

Principle 3

Members ensure the ethical treatment of human and animal research subjects by collaborators, assistants, students, and employees.

Principle 4

Members establish an informed consent with human research subjects when required by institutional, state, or federal codes or regulations, making explicit in plain language the terms of participation, particularly with respect to any elements of risk or stress involved, and adhere to those terms throughout the experiment. One of these terms must be that the subject has the right to terminate participation at any time without prejudice.

Principle 5

Members do not coerce potential human research subjects to participate as subjects, nor do they use undue monetary rewards to induce subjects to take risks they would not otherwise take.

Principle 6

Members preserve the confidentiality of any information obtained from human research subjects that, if divulged, may have harmful effects on those subjects.

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